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The use of wearable cameras in assessing children's dietary intake and behaviours in China

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# 1 **The use of wearable cameras in assessing children's dietary** 2 **intake and behaviours in China**

## 3 **Abstract**

4 The use of lifelogging device in dietary assessments can reduce misreporting and  
5 underreporting, which are common in the previous studies conventional methods. We  
6 performed the first study in Chinese children (primary school Grade 4) that applied  
7 the wearable cameras in assisting dietary recall. Children (n=52) wore the wearable  
8 cameras (Narrative Clip 2) for seven consecutive days, during which they completed a  
9 3-day 24-hour dietary recall at home. Then children modified their dietary recalls at  
10 school by reviewing the photos taken by the wearable camera at school, with the  
11 assistance of the investigator, and generated the camera-assisted 24-hour dietary  
12 recalls. Compared with camera-assisted dietary recalls, 8% (n=160) and 1% (n=11) of  
13 food items were underreported (*i.e.* not reported at all) and misreported (*i.e.* reported  
14 in an incorrect amount) by dietary recalls without camera-assistance, respectively.  
15 Dietary recalls without camera assistance underestimated daily energy intake by  
16  $149\pm 182$  kcal/d (8%) in comparison to the camera-assisted dietary recalls. Foods  
17 consumed on the snacking occasions (40%) were more likely to be underreported than  
18 those consumed at main meals ( $P<0.001$ ). Beverages (37%), fruits (30%), snacks and  
19 desserts (16%) were foods most likely to be inaccurately reported. Children were  
20 satisfied with the wearable cameras, with a median score 5.0 (IQR: 5.0-5.0) for most  
21 features. Wearable cameras hold promise for improving accuracy of dietary intake  
22 assessment in children, providing rich objective information on dietary behaviours,  
23 and received high level of satisfaction and compliance of the users. Our results  
24 suggest that the accuracy of dietary recall among Chinese school-aged children could

25 be improved by wearable camera, especially avoiding underreporting in the snacking

26 occasions.

27 **Keywords:** wearable cameras, 24-hour dietary recall, children, obesity

ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

1 **The use of wearable cameras in assessing children's dietary**  
2 **intake and behaviours in China**

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## 17 **1. Introduction**

18 The prevalence of childhood overweight and obesity in China has increased  
19 dramatically from 1% and 0.1%, respectively in 1985 [1] to 12% and 9% (based on  
20 the Working Group for Obesity in China criteria) for children aged 7-18 years in 2015  
21 [2]. As dietary intake and behaviours are major contributors to obesity and Chinese  
22 diets and eating patterns are different from those in the western countries, study on the  
23 dietary assessment methods is important in China.

24

25 Traditional self-reported dietary assessment methods have been criticized for their  
26 accuracy in determining energy intake [3]. Conducting dietary assessments is even  
27 challenging among school-aged children, because children have limited  
28 comprehension of food variety and quantity, and cooking methods, and also have  
29 difficulties in concentrating their attention to food recalls [4]. Underestimation of food  
30 intake is common in children's dietary assessment [5]. Caregivers are often required  
31 to assist their children to complete dietary assessment. Chinese school-aged children  
32 often eat together with family members at the table, which are different from those in  
33 western countries. The practice of sharing plates of food with family members could  
34 make children's dietary assessment more difficult.

35

36 Digital technologies, such as photo, video and audio, have been used in dietary  
37 assessment to enhance accuracy and ease of administration by ensuring rapid, regular  
38 and immediate recording of food intakes [6-10]. Wearable cameras are one of the  
39 photo-assisted methods that have been employed. The wearable camera could also  
40 capture the mealtime interaction between family members, and help to differentiate  
41 which foods are eaten by the participant and which foods are eaten by others. Most

42 dietary surveys applying the wearable cameras were among individuals aged above 16  
43 years and these studies have taken place in western countries [11-16]. Its use among  
44 school-aged children has only been reported in five studies in the UK [17], US [18]  
45 and New Zealand [19-21] with relatively small sample sizes.

46

47 It is hypothesized that the use of wearable cameras would enhance the accuracy of the  
48 dietary assessment among Chinese school-aged children. The aims of this study were  
49 i) to evaluate the validity of the 24-hour dietary recalls by comparing results obtained  
50 from surveys with and without the assistance of photos; and ii) to evaluate the  
51 feasibility of the wearable cameras on children's dietary assessment by analyzing the  
52 satisfaction questions from the children's questionnaire.

53

## 54 **2. Materials and Methods**

### 55 **2.1. The participants**

56 This study was conducted in a primary school located in a Beijing suburb from May  
57 to October 2017. The school supplied lunch to students daily. The school was not a  
58 boarding school, not specific to ethnic minority students or students of particular  
59 skills. The school had not participated in any childhood obesity interventions during  
60 the past year.

61

62 Children at Grade 4 (typical age range 9 to 10.9 years) of the selected primary school  
63 were our potential participants. Exclusion criteria were a history of severe heart, lung,  
64 liver, or kidney diseases (*e.g.* hypertension, tuberculosis); iatrogenic obesity;  
65 abnormal growth (*e.g.* dwarfism, gigantism); a physical disability; or attempts to lose  
66 weight (*e.g.* on diet, taking weight reduction medications) during the past three

67 months. Written informed consent was obtained from the children and their parents.

68 This study was approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) of Peking

69 University Health Science Centre.

70

## 71 **2.2.Data collection**

### 72 **2.2.1. Children's data from physical examination and school record**

73 Physical examinations of weight (kg) and height (m) of each study participant were

74 conducted by the investigator who had been trained to undertake physical

75 measurements. Information on children's sex and date of birth were obtained from the

76 school's registration records.

77

### 78 **2.2.2. Training in study procedures**

79 A training session was given by the investigator to the children and their primary

80 caregivers. A brief questionnaire was delivered to the caregivers one day before the

81 training session. Caregivers were required to report their education, occupation, their

82 height and weight, and returned the questionnaire when they came to attend the

83 training.

84

85 In the training session, the purpose and procedure of the study were explained to the

86 children and caregivers. The children were informed that they should wear the camera

87 for seven days during the study period. The caregivers were taught how to help their

88 children to wear the cameras, how to select two weekdays and one weekend day

89 among the study week to complete the 24-hour dietary recall, and how to use the

90 electronic kitchen scales to weigh foods if they had problems in estimating food

91 weight. Children were allowed to wear and familiarize themselves with the camera for

92 a day prior to the study.

93

94 The ethical framework for automated wearable cameras developed by Kelly *et al.* [22]  
95 was adopted in the development of ethical protocol of this study. Specifically, in the  
96 training session, children and their caregivers were notified the approximate number  
97 of photos to be taken, messages to be collected, and potentially private events that  
98 could be photographed (*e.g.* private family moments, use of bathrooms) by the  
99 wearable cameras. Children and their caregivers were informed of their rights to  
100 delete any photos if they wished to do so, before the investigator reviewed and  
101 analyzed the photos. Children were notified that they should shut down the camera  
102 when entering photo-restricted venues (*e.g.* swimming pools and changing rooms).

103

#### 104 **2.2.3. The use of the wearable cameras**

105 During the study, children wore the camera for a week. The children fixed the  
106 wearable cameras (Narrative Clip 2, made in Taiwan, designed in Sweden) on their  
107 collar with a metal clip and elastic lanyard after they woke up, and removed it before  
108 they slept. Since the camera's maximal battery life is six hours, children were given  
109 two cameras and changed camera twice per day, when they arrived at school in the  
110 morning and when they left school in the afternoon. Once the cameras were removed  
111 for charging, photos stored were exported to a computer. The investigator screened all  
112 photos taken, and deleted the ones irrelevant to diet. From the remaining photos, the  
113 investigator selected the ones to represent all foods consumed in all meals each day  
114 per child. The photos selected should clearly show foods in front of the child. In most  
115 circumstance, each eating occasion (*e.g.* breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacking) was  
116 represented by one to two key photos. Therefore, six to eight key photos representing



117 all foods consumed each day were used in the camera-assisted dietary survey in the  
118 next day.

119

#### 120 **2.2.4. Dietary recalls without camera assistance**

121 Children completed a 3-day 24-hour dietary recall during the study week. They were  
122 allowed to choose any two weekdays and one weekend day, during which children  
123 recorded all the foods and beverages they had eaten from the morning when they  
124 woke up to the nighttime before they slept, with the assistance of their primary  
125 caregivers. Electronic kitchen scale that provided by the investigator could be used to  
126 weigh foods if children had problems in estimating food weight.

127

128 The next day at school, the investigator collected the dietary records, and assisted  
129 each child to check and modify his/her record. The food atlas [23] developed by the  
130 Institute of Nutrition of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention was  
131 used to help the children estimate the quantity (weight [g] or volume [ml]) of foods  
132 they had eaten. Initially, the child was asked to check each food item recorded, and  
133 required to modify the record if incorrect reporting existed. Dietary recall without  
134 camera assistance was generated.

135

#### 136 **2.2.5. Camera-assisted dietary recalls**

137 After confirming the dietary recalls without camera assistance, the investigator  
138 showed the pre-selected eating event photos (n=6-8, detailed above) to the child in  
139 time sequent, and asked the child to check each food item recorded and to modify or  
140 confirm his/her record. The dietary recall generated upon viewing photos was called  
141 camera-assisted dietary recall. At the end of the study, a self-administered

142 questionnaire was distributed to the children, to examine their satisfaction with the  
143 wearable cameras.

144

145 For both the dietary recalls data with and without camera assistance, the daily dietary  
146 intakes (including energy, macronutrients, and micronutrients) were calculated using  
147 the China Food Composition Tables [24, 25] and the Dietary Reference Intakes of the  
148 Chinese Residents [26].

149

#### 150 **2.2.6. Photo annotation**

151 Upon the completion of the fieldwork, photos were stored by the investigator in a  
152 password-protected computer. The protocol (see Supplementary document 1) for  
153 photo annotation was developed by the investigator after an intensive review of the  
154 relevant literature [11, 16, 17]. Briefly, for each child per day, the investigator  
155 screened all photos taken in order, and identified photos related to dietary, physical  
156 activity, purchasing or screen time events. Photos related to dietary events were  
157 reviewed carefully and coded into eating occasions (including breakfast, lunch, dinner,  
158 and snacking) and dining locations (including home, school, restaurant, others, such  
159 as on the move to somewhere). For each eating occasion, information on the starting  
160 and ending time of the meal, dining location, whether the child watched electric  
161 screen while eating, and whether the child ate and was accompanied by others was  
162 obtained according to the photos and documented in a table. Dietary events captured  
163 by photos showing at least one switched-on electric device (*e.g.* TVs, computers,  
164 tables and mobile phones) were indicated as ‘eating events involving screening  
165 behaviours’. Similarly, dietary events captured by photos showing at least one other  
166 person together with the child (*e.g.* parent, grandparent, sibling, friend) were indicated

167 as 'eating with family members or friends'. It took approximately 40 minutes to code  
168 one-day of photos for one child. For quality assurance, photos that recorded all dietary  
169 events of five randomly selected children (*i.e.* 10% of the total participants) were  
170 re-coded. Consistency of the coding between the first and second time should not be  
171 less than 80%.

172

### 173 **2.3.Measures**

#### 174 **2.3.1. Measures on children's characteristics**

175 Children's age was calculated from their date of birth. *Children's Body Mass Index*  
176 (*BMI*) was calculated from the physical examination results. Children were classified  
177 into wasting (aged 9.0-9.9 years, male:  $BMI < 14.1$ , female:  $BMI < 13.8$ ; aged  
178 10.0-10.9 years, male:  $BMI < 14.4$ , female:  $BMI < 14.0$ ), healthy weight (aged 9.0-9.9  
179 years, male:  $BMI = 14.1-18.8$ , female:  $BMI = 13.8-18.9$ ; aged 10.0-10.9 years, male:  
180  $BMI = 14.4-19.5$ , female:  $BMI = 14.0-19.9$ ), overweight (aged 9.0-9.9 years, male:  
181  $BMI = 18.9-21.3$ , female:  $BMI = 19.0-20.9$ ; aged 10.0-10.9 years, male:  $BMI = 19.6-22.4$ ,  
182 female:  $BMI = 20.0-22.0$ ), and obese (aged 9.0-9.9 years, male:  $BMI \geq 21.4$ , female:  
183  $BMI \geq 21.0$ ; aged 10.0-10.9 years, male:  $BMI \geq 22.5$ , female:  $BMI \geq 22.1$ ) categories  
184 according to the BMI classification criteria for school-aged children and adolescents  
185 in China [27, 28]. The Chinese criteria is similar to the World Health Organization  
186 (WHO) criteria using BMI-for-age (z score), while the cut-off values are slightly  
187 different. The Chinese method classified children according to their year of age rather  
188 than month of age (the WHO method). Details of two criteria for children between 9  
189 and 11 years (*i.e.* age range of our study participants) are provided in Supplementary  
190 document 2. *Parents' BMIs* were also calculated according to their self-reported  
191 weight and height. *The socioeconomic status of family* was evaluated by the Green's

192 score [29]. Green's score= $0.5 \times$  (father's level of education score  $\times 0.7$  + father's  
193 occupation score  $\times 0.4$  + mother's level of education score  $\times 0.7$  + mother's occupation  
194 score  $\times 0.4$ ). The scorings for different education and occupation categories are  
195 detailed in Supplementary document 3. A higher score indicates higher social  
196 economic status of the family. The median score among the current study population  
197 (54.95) was used to classify participants into lower ( $\leq 54.95$ ) or upper ( $> 54.95$ )  
198 socioeconomic status.

199

### 200 **2.3.2. Measures on the accuracy of dietary recalls**

201 Food items collected from the dietary recalls without camera assistance were  
202 compared against those in the camera-assisted dietary recalls, and classified into  
203 correctly, underreported (*i.e.* not reported at all), and misreported items (*i.e.* reported  
204 in an incorrect amount). Results of the daily dietary intakes obtained from the  
205 camera-assisted 24-hour dietary recalls were compared with that from children's  
206 memory only recall.

207

### 208 **2.3.3. Extracting food measures from camera data**

209 The table documented information of each eating occasion per day and per child was  
210 used to analyze mealtime duration, eating rate, number of days eating outside home,  
211 in western fast food restaurants, breakfast consumption, the proportion of watching  
212 electric screen while eating, and the proportion of eating with family members or  
213 friends. *Mealtime duration* (in minutes) was calculated as the differences between two  
214 photos with the time stamp indicating the start and end of the same dining event.  
215 *Eating rate* (gram/minute) was calculated as the average grams of foods consumed at  
216 each meal (measured by camera-assisted method) divided by the average mealtime

217 duration for each person (minutes). *Number of days eating outside home, in western*  
218 *fast food restaurants, and consuming breakfast during the study week* were estimated  
219 according to the coding of the photos related to dietary events. *The proportion of*  
220 *watching electric screen while eating (%)* was calculated as the number of dietary  
221 events that involved screening behaviours divided by the total number of dietary  
222 events, and then multiplied by 100. The higher the proportion, the more frequent the  
223 screen time while dining was. *The proportion of eating with family members or*  
224 *friends (%)* was calculated as the number of dietary events where others were present  
225 divided by the total number of dietary events, and then multiplied by 100. The higher  
226 the proportion, the more frequently the child ate together with others.

227

#### 228 **2.4.Sample size calculation**

229 Because the main purpose of this study was to assess the data accuracy of the  
230 traditional dietary recall method, sample size estimation was based on the differences  
231 of daily energy intakes measured by dietary recalls with and without camera  
232 assistance. Based on data from Gemming *et al.* [12], the effect size (Cohen's d) of the  
233 difference of daily energy intakes between recalls with and without camera assistance  
234 was set as 0.4. A total of 54 participants could achieve 80% potential power to detect  
235 such difference, using a two-sided T-test with a significance level of 0.05. Assuming a  
236 10% of attrition or data ineligibility, a total sample size of 60 was estimated.

237

#### 238 **2.5.Statistical analyses**

239 Descriptive statistics (frequencies, means and standard deviations, median and  
240 interquartile range) were used to describe the socio-demographic characteristics of the  
241 children, their dietary intakes and behaviours, and their satisfaction with the wearable

242 cameras. Chi-square analyses (for categorical variables) and Independent Sample T  
243 test (for continuous variables) were conducted to detect the differences in  
244 socio-demographic characteristics between healthy and obese children. Correlation  
245 coefficients ( $r$ ) and Independent Sample T-test were performed to test the correlation  
246 and differences of intakes obtained by two methods (*i.e.* dietary recalls with and  
247 without camera assistance), respectively. 95% limits of agreements between two  
248 methods were also calculated using the Bland-Altman method [30]. Statistical  
249 significance for all analyses was set as a  $P$  value  $<0.05$ . Data analyses were performed  
250 with the SPSS 20.0 software.

251

### 252 3. Results

253 A total of 62 primary school students at Grade 4 were screened for eligibility based on  
254 the criteria described earlier. With a further exclusion of 10 participants who did not  
255 complete the 3-day dietary recall, 52 students were included in the study.

256 Characteristics of the children participants were presented in Table 1. There were  
257 equal numbers of two sexes (male/female) and weight subgroups (healthy  
258 weight/obese). No children were classified as wasting or overweight according to the  
259 Chinese BMI classification criteria. Obese children were in a significantly lower  
260 social economic status, in comparison to the children with healthy weight ( $\chi^2=8.67$   
261  $P<0.005$ ). There were significant differences of maternal BMI ( $t(df=50)=-4.03$ ,  
262  $P<0.001$ ) but not paternal BMI ( $t(df=34)=-1.23$ ,  $P=0.229$ ) between obese children  
263 and children of healthy weight status (Table 1).

264

265 Using the results obtained by the camera-assisted dietary recall method as reference,  
266 the food items recorded by the dietary recall without camera assistance were

267 categorized into correctly reported items (n=1869, 92%), not reported items (n=160,  
268 8%) and misreported items (n=11, 1%). Foods consumed at snacking occasions were  
269 more likely to be inaccurately reported than those consumed at breakfast, lunch or  
270 dinner ( $\chi^2=394.60$ ,  $P<0.001$ ). Foods consumed in other places (*e.g.* on the move) were  
271 more likely to be inaccurately reported than foods consumed in school, restaurants  
272 and home ( $\chi^2=63.75$ ,  $P<0.001$ ). Food items that were most likely to be underreported  
273 or misreported were beverages, fruits, snacks and desserts ( $\chi^2=259.06$ ,  $P<0.001$ )  
274 (Table 2).

275  
276 Table 3 presented the daily dietary intakes (energy, macronutrients, and  
277 micronutrients) obtained from dietary recalls with and without camera assistance.  
278 Results from dietary recall without camera assistance were significantly lower than  
279 that from recall with camera assistance (t ranged between -5.95 and -2.21,  $P$  ranged  
280 between  $<0.001$  and 0.015), although there were high correlations between the results  
281 of two methods (r ranged between 0.69 and 0.97,  $P<0.001$ ). The 95% limits of  
282 agreement for energy, carbohydrate, protein and fat intake were  $-150\pm357$ ,  $-24.2\pm58.0$ ,  
283  $-5.9\pm24.5$ , and  $-3.7\pm12.0$ , respectively, when assessed using two methods (Figure 1).

284  
285 A total number of 345, 918 photos were used in photo annotation. The overall  
286 consistency between the first and second time coding was 94%, which met the  
287 pre-specified requirement of 80%. The consistencies of coding for eating occasion,  
288 eating location, eating events involving screening behaviours, and eating with family  
289 members or friends were 92 %, 98%, 98%, and 93%, respectively. Dietary behaviours  
290 of the children were presented in Table 5.

291

292 Over the study period, children spent a median duration of 13.0 hours (IQR:12.3-13.8)  
293 per day on weekdays and 10.5 hours (IQR: 9.1-11.9) per day on weekends wearing  
294 the device. The majority of the children were satisfied or very satisfied with the  
295 weight, size, appearance, comfort, and speed of battery re-charging of the wearable  
296 cameras, with a median score 5.0 (IQR: 5.0-5.0) for most features (Table 4). Most of  
297 the children (90%) gave feedback that the food-related photos were very helpful in  
298 supplementing the food recalls.

299

#### 300 **4. Discussion**

301 To our knowledge, this is the first study reporting the accuracy of the use of wearable  
302 cameras in children's dietary assessments. Our results suggest that the use of wearable  
303 cameras in a 3-day dietary recall can enhance the accuracy of results by reducing  
304 underreported or misreported food items. Rich information on dietary behaviours  
305 were obtained from the photo data. Time spent on wearing the device and feedback  
306 from the children suggest high compliance and acceptability of the novel technique  
307 among the Chinese school-aged children.

308

309 Our study revealed a strong correlation between food selection and intake from  
310 dietary recalls with and without camera assistance, but results from the dietary recalls  
311 without camera assistance were significantly lower than that from the camera-assisted  
312 dietary recall method. Our results are in accordance with the studies by Gemming *et*  
313 *al.* [12] and Pettitt *et al.* [13], which reported that although the 24-hour dietary recall  
314 with and without the assistance of cameras had lower energy consumption results,  
315 results of camera-assisted method were closer to the references value (measured by  
316 the doubly labelled water technique), regardless of sex and weight status. Moreover,



317 our result is consistent with Gemming *et al.* [15] that the proportion of underreporting  
318 was higher than that of misreporting. The main reason might be when the investigator  
319 showed the photos, children could remember what they have eaten, but not how much  
320 they have eaten. Our result suggests that the camera-assisted 24-hour dietary recall is  
321 more advantageous in reducing underreporting than misreporting of food intakes. In  
322 addition, our study relied on the children to amend and modify the 24-hour dietary  
323 recall. The investigator showed children the photos; and the children confirmed foods  
324 documented in the dietary recall had been consumed by themselves. Our method is  
325 considered to be more accurate than that the investigator analyzing photos on his/her  
326 own. This is because not all foods shown in the photos were eaten by the children,  
327 and the investigator would not be able to correctly differentiate which ones had been  
328 eaten by the children, which ones had been eaten by others, and which ones were not  
329 eaten but moved to elsewhere. Our method is supported by Cowburn *et al.* [17] that  
330 teenagers using photos taken from wearable cameras could accurately remember  
331 eating and purchasing events.

332

333 Our study suggests that the self-reported data on breakfast, lunch and supper was  
334 relatively accurate; while foods consumed in the snacking occasion were likely to be  
335 underreported. One reason might be that children forgot to report snacks. Another  
336 reason might be that children intentionally avoided reporting unhealthy snacks (such  
337 as chips, ice-cream) which the children might not be allowed to consume according to  
338 the usual requirement of their caregivers. Our results were consistent with the  
339 literature that snacks were easily to be misreported or underreported [12, 15, 31]. Our  
340 study found that foods eaten on the move to somewhere were more likely to be  
341 underreported or misreported. The investigator had already emphasized the additional

342 eating occasion and eating on the move in the training session, but there were still  
343 underreported or misreported foods in some cases. Our results suggest attention  
344 should be paid to the reporting at snacking occasion without the companion of  
345 caregivers in performing children's dietary survey. Beverage, fruits, snacks and  
346 desserts were found to be the top three food items underreported in our study.  
347 Gemming *et al.* [12, 15] reported that fruits and vegetables, beverage, and desserts  
348 were more likely be misreported or underreported than other foods among adults. Our  
349 study separated fruits and vegetables, and found that only 4.1% of vegetables was  
350 underreported in comparison to 30.4% of fruits. Our results suggest separating fruits  
351 and vegetables consumption in dietary surveys.

352

353 The strengths of our study include its originality in using the wearable cameras to  
354 enhance children's dietary recall. The camera-assisted method yielded richer objective  
355 information on eating environment and eating behaviours, such as the duration of  
356 food consumption, the behaviour of watching electric-screen while eating, eating with  
357 family members or friends, in comparison to the self-reported questionnaire data.  
358 Moreover, our study used the multiple days' dietary assessment method to enhance  
359 the reliability and validity of results, while some studies only conducted a one-day  
360 dietary assessment [32].

361

362 Limitations of this study should be acknowledged. First, this study was limited to a  
363 sample of primary school students at Grade 4. This was due to the consideration that  
364 the children at Grade 4 had better understanding capacity compared with those at  
365 lower grades, and less study burden than those at higher grades, and thus promote  
366 better compliance with the study procedures. Further studies on its use in other ages

367 are suggested. Second, the ‘weighed food intake’ or ‘doubly labelled water method’  
368 were not used as reference methods in this study, so that we were unable to determine  
369 the differences between camera-assisted dietary recalls results and true food intake.  
370 Third, the battery life for the wearable cameras was not enough for a whole day. The  
371 investigator had invested much time to help the students to change camera twice per  
372 day. Techniques to prolong the battery life of wearable cameras is urgently needed.  
373 Finally, the reliability of our photo annotation was limited by having only one coder.  
374 Owing to the restriction of manpower and funding, involving two coders had not been  
375 possible in our study. However, after referring to a previous study [16], the  
376 investigator performed a re-coding of photos of 10% randomly selected participants,  
377 and obtained appropriate consistencies.

378

## 379 **5. Conclusions**

380 The study provides evidence of the feasibility and acceptability of the use of wearable  
381 cameras to assess children’s dietary intakes in China. The wearable camera improved  
382 the accuracy of children’s 24-hour dietary recall by reducing underreported and  
383 misreported foods, in particular in the snacking occasions.

384

## 385 **Declarations of interest**

386 None.

387

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395

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508 **Table 1. Characteristics of the participants.**

	All participants (N=52)	Healthy (N=26)	Obese (N=26)	$\chi^2$ or t	P value
	Mean± SD or N (%)				
Age (years)	9.8±0.4	9.8±0.4	9.8±0.5	0.29	0.774
Sex					
Male	26 (50)	13 (50)	13 (50)		
Female	26 (50)	13 (50)	13 (50)		
Family socioeconomic status				8.67	<b>0.005</b>
Upper	25 (49)	18 (72)	7 (28)		
Lower	26 (51)	8 (31)	18 (69)		
Children's BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	20.8±4.7	16.5±1.5	25.1±2.0	-17.95	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
Father's BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	25.4±3.2	24.9±2.1	26.0±4.0	-1.23	0.229
Mother's BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	24.0±3.4	22.3±2.4	25.7±3.5	-4.03	<b>&lt;0.001</b>

509 SD, standard deviation



510 **Table 2. The accuracy of the 3-day 24-hour dietary recalls (DR)<sup>§</sup>.**

	Number of food items N (%)			$\chi^2$	P value
	Correctly reported (n=1869)	Underreported (n=160)	Misreported (n=11)		
Sex				5.32	0.070
Male	883 (93)	63 (7)	3 (0)		
Female	986 (90)	97 (9)	8 (1)		
Weight status				0.83	0.660
Healthy weight	980 (91)	89 (8)	5 (1)		
Obese	889 (92)	71 (7)	6 (1)		
Eating occasions				394.60	<0.001
Breakfast	423 (94)	24 (5)	3 (1)		
Lunch	726 (97)	18 (2)	4 (1)		
Dinner	573 (96)	21 (4)	4 (1)		
Snacking	147 (60)	97 (40)	0 (0)		
Dining locations				63.75	<0.001
Home	1158 (90)	128 (10)	6 (1)		
School	574 (98)	10 (2)	3 (1)		
Restaurant	101 (91)	9 (8)	1 (1)		
Others ( <i>e.g.</i> on the move to somewhere)	36 (72)	13 (26)	1 (2)		
Food categories				259.06	<0.001
Cereals and tubers	565 (96)	11 (2)	10 (2)		
Vegetables	331 (96)	14 (4)	0 (0)		
Fruits	78 (70)	34 (30)	0 (0)		
Animal foods	511 (95)	25 (5)	0 (0)		
Soya nuts	71 (95)	4 (5)	0 (0)		
Snacks and desserts	184 (84)	34 (16)	1 (0)		
Beverages	53 (63)	31 (37)	0 (0)		
Others ( <i>e.g.</i> condiments)	76 (92)	7 (8)	0 (0)		

511 <sup>§</sup>Results from the camera-assisted 24-hour dietary recalls were used as references.

512 **Table 3. Daily dietary intakes obtained by dietary recalls with and without**  
 513 **camera assistance (N=52).**

	DR	Camera-assisted DR	Difference	Percentage (%) of difference	t	P <sub>1</sub>	r	P <sub>2</sub>
	(Mean±SD)	(Mean±SD)	(Mean±SD)					
Energy (kcal)	1804±539	1954±530	-150±182	8	-5.95	<0.001	0.94	<0.001
Carbohydrate (g)	246.9±74.2	271.1±74.9	-24.2±29.6	9	-5.91	<0.001	0.92	<0.001
Fat (g)	58.9±24.6	62.6±24.4	-3.7±6.1	6	-4.39	<0.001	0.97	<0.001
Protein (g)	77.8±31.8	83.7±32.7	-5.9±12.5	7	-3.40	0.001	0.93	<0.001
Dietary fiber (g)	9.9±6.6	11.9±8.1	-1.9±5.5	16	-2.53	0.015	0.73	<0.001
Vitamin A (µgRE)	433.2±321.1	548.5±450.0	-115.3±327.1	21	-2.54	0.014	0.69	<0.001
Thiamin (mg)	0.9±0.4	0.9±0.4	-0.1±0.1	11	-5.21	<0.001	0.98	<0.001
Riboflavin (mg)	0.9±0.4	1.0±0.4	-0.1±0.1	10	-4.44	<0.001	0.92	<0.001
Vitamin C (mg)	61.0±38.5	74.6±45.9	-13.6±26.2	18	-3.74	<0.001	0.82	<0.001
Calcium (mg)	422.3±240.8	496.5±282.9	-74.2±136.1	15	-3.93	<0.001	0.88	<0.001
Potassium (mg)	1847.3±1001.2	2118.9±1120.7	-271.6±587.0	13	-3.34	0.002	0.85	<0.001
Sodium (mg)	1287.4±653.5	1392.8±669.9	-105.4±217.3	8	-3.50	0.001	0.95	<0.001
Magnesium (mg)	248.9±112.5	280.5±126.8	-31.6±69.9	11	-3.26	0.002	0.84	<0.001
Iron (mg)	20.7±13.4	23.0±14.0	-2.3±5.4	10	-3.07	0.003	0.92	<0.001
Zinc (mg)	11.3±4.5	12.1±4.5	-0.8±1.6	7	-3.64	<0.001	0.93	<0.001

514 DR, no-camera-assisted 24-hour dietary recalls;

515 Difference, DR-Camera-assisted DR;

516 Percentage (%) of difference, Difference/Camera-assisted DR\*100%

517 r, correlations between results from DR and Camera-assisted DR;

518 P<sub>1</sub>, P value for the differences between results from DR and Camera-assisted DR,

519 independent sample T-test;

520 P<sub>2</sub>, P value for the correlations between results from Camera-assisted DR and DR.

521 **Table 4. Children's satisfaction to the wearable cameras (N=52).**

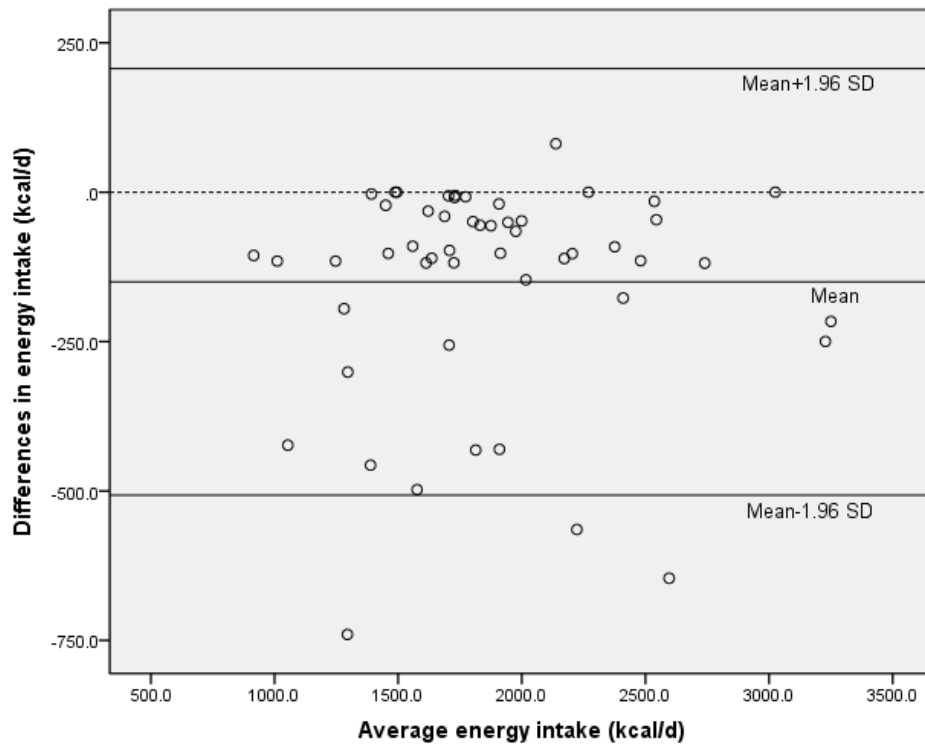
Camera feature	Very unsatisfied	Unsatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very satisfied	Satisfaction score
	N (%)	N (%)	N (%)	N (%)	N (%)	Median (IQR)
Weight	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (6)	4 (8)	45 (87)	5.0 (5.0-5.0)
Size	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (2)	3 (6)	48 (92)	5.0 (5.0-5.0)
Appearance	0 (0)	0 (0)	4 (8)	5 (10)	43 (83)	5.0 (5.0-5.0)
Degree of comfort	0 (0)	1 (1.9)	3 (6)	15 (29)	33 (64)	5.0 (4.0-5.0)
Manner of wearing	0 (0)	0 (0)	4 (8)	7 (14)	41 (79)	5.0 (5.0-5.0)
Speed of battery charging	0 (0)	1 (1.9)	0 (0)	6 (12)	45 (87)	5.0 (5.0-5.0)

522 IQR: interquartile range

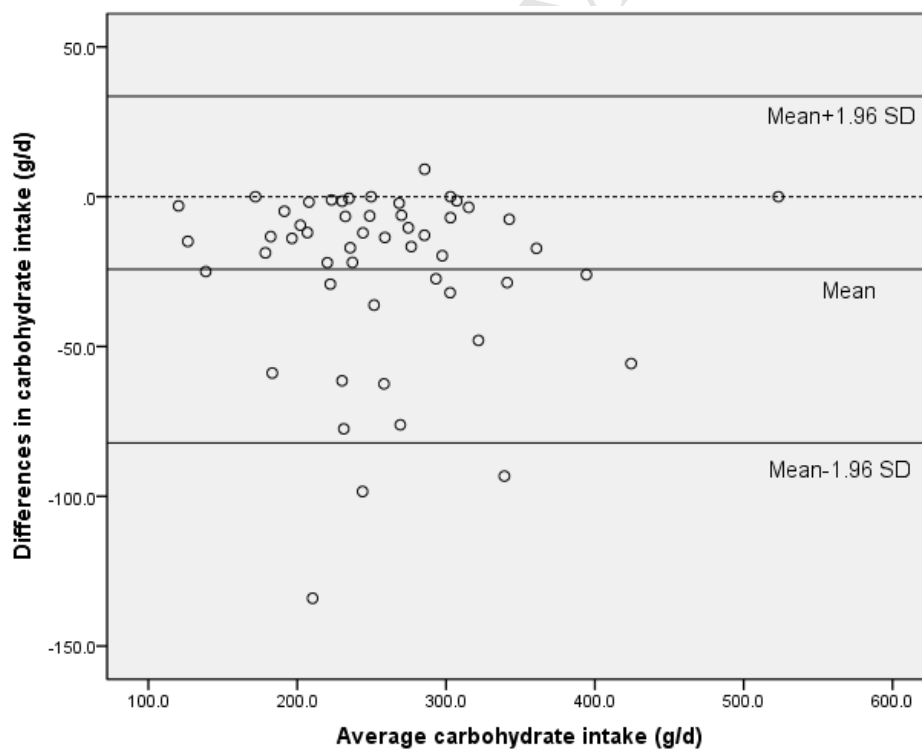
523 **Table 5. Dietary behaviours of healthy and obese children, measured by**  
 524 **camera-assisted dietary recalls (N=52).**

	Healthy (N=26) (Mean±SD)	Obese (N=26) (Mean±SD)
Average mealtime duration (minute)	13.0±3.8	13.7±5.3
Average eating rate (g/min)	28.7±10.0	29.0±11.8
Number of days eating outside home in the study week	1.0±1.3	1.0±1.0
Number of days eating in the western fast food restaurants in the study week	0.4±0.9	0.1±0.3
Number of days having breakfast in the study week	6.4±1.2	6.3±1.2
The proportion of watching electric screen while eating	19.9±22.1	25.1±22.5
The proportion of dining accompanied by others	89.2±13.5	78.8±17.8

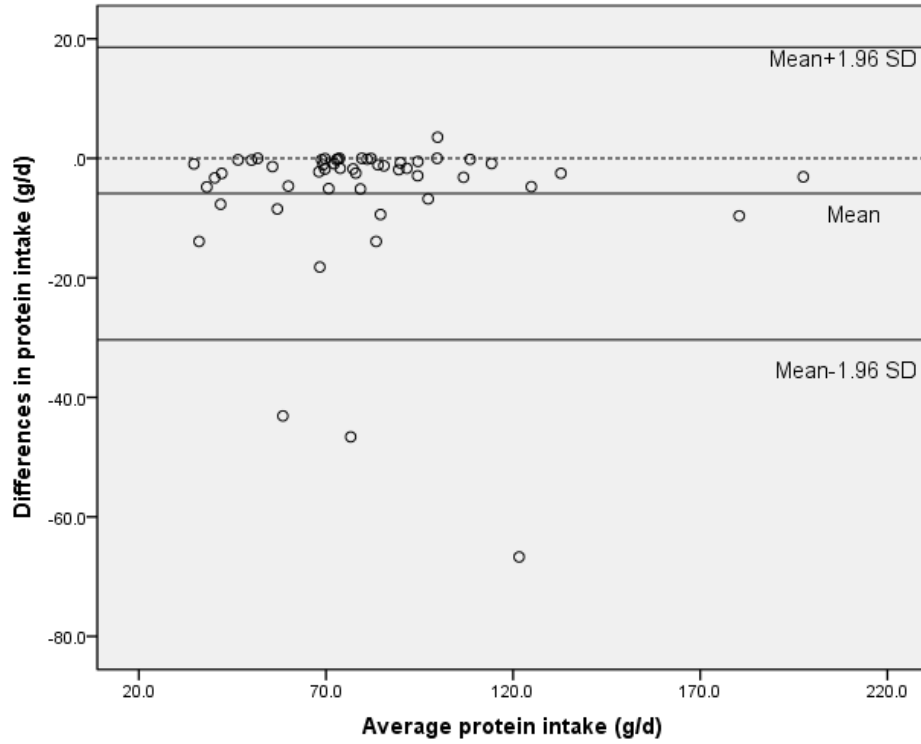
525 **Figure 1. Agreement of two methods (dietary recalls with and without camera**  
526 **assistance) in measuring energy, carbohydrate, protein and fat intakes, by**  
527 **Bland-Altman limits of agreement plots**



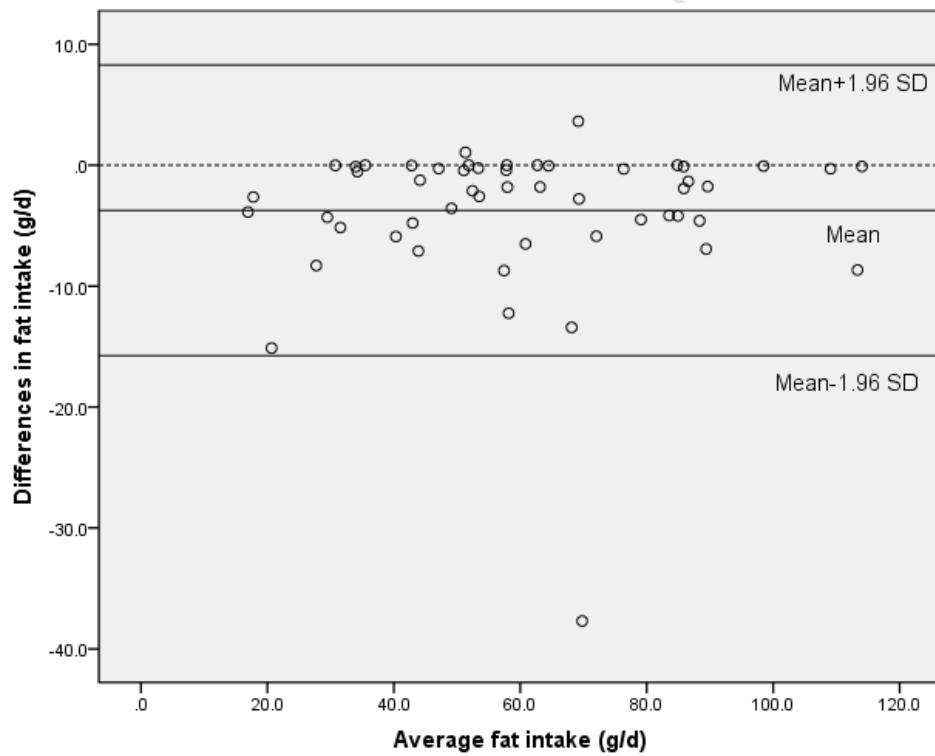
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